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Agenda item 134
Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

Thematic cluster II: sanctions monitoring teams, groups and panels

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The report contains the proposed additional resource requirements for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism, amounting to $5,030,800 (net of staff assessment) for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2016.

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Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism

($5,030,800)

Background, mandate and objective

1. On 7 August 2015, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2235 (2015), in which the Council reiterated its condemnation in the strongest terms of any use of any toxic chemical, such as chlorine, as a chemical weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic and expressed its determination to identify those responsible for those acts.

2. The Security Council established, for one year, with a possibility of future extension if it deemed it necessary, an Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)-United Nations joint investigative mechanism.

3. An independent, three-member leadership panel, consisting of an Assistant Secretary-General and two deputies at the D-2 level, began its work on 24 September 2015 after being appointed by the Secretary-General. The panel is supported by 24 staff, as detailed in table 3.

4. The initial activities of the Joint Investigative Mechanism for the period from October to December 2015 were funded under the commitment authority of the Secretary-General pursuant to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 68/249 on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2014-2015, in the amount of $1,051,200, including 21 temporary positions.

5. The mandate of the Mechanism is to identify, to the greatest extent feasible, individuals, entities, groups or Governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic where the OPCW fact-finding mission determines or has determined that a specific incident in the Syrian Arab Republic involved or likely involved the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical.

6. The Mechanism may undertake activities at the location(s) where the use of toxic chemicals as a weapon is alleged to have occurred, including locations directly relevant to the Mechanism, such as hospital(s), and emergency response stations; any other location(s) within the Syrian Arab Republic, including territories not under its control; and neighbouring and other relevant States, as it may consider necessary or appropriate.

7. The leadership panel is supported by three components: a political office, based in New York and Damascus, which provides political analysis, legal advice and media relations, information management and administrative support; an investigative office, based in The Hague, which provides chemical and medical analysis, forensics, military ordnance analysis and other relevant information analysis; and a planning and operations support office, based in New York, which provides support to the leadership panel and the political and investigative components.

Cooperation with other entities

8. In fulfilling its tasks, the Mechanism works with United Nations departments, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Safety and Security, the Office of Legal Affairs and the Department of Field Support, as well as the United Nations country team in the Syrian Arab Republic, as necessary. In addition, it works closely with OPCW in terms of sharing information and coordination at both the working and senior levels. It also coordinates at the working and senior levels with other partner organizations, including the World Health Organization and the International Criminal Police Organization, as appropriate.

Performance information

9. In accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), the Secretary-General submitted a letter to the President of the Security Council on 27 August 2015 (S/2015/669). The letter contained recommendations, including elements of terms of reference, regarding the establishment and operation of the Mechanism.

10. On 24 September, the leadership panel began its work, following the appointment of the members by the Secretary-General. The process to recruit core staff was initiated on 25 September.

11. Given that appropriate support from Member States is required for the Mechanism to perform its role, a trust fund was established by the Secretary-General. On 25 September, the Head of the Mechanism sent a letter seeking financial support from interested Member States, given that material and technical needs will be met from voluntary contributions.

12. In October, the Mechanism set up its offices in New York, The Hague and Damascus. The recruitment of staff with the relevant skills and expertise also began in October and is expected to be completed by mid-November.

Planning assumptions for 2016

13. The Security Council established the Mechanism for one year, with a possibility of future extension, if it deemed it necessary, to identify, to the greatest extent feasible, individuals, entities, groups or Governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic where the OPCW fact-finding mission determined or had determined that a specific incident in the Syrian Arab Republic had involved or had likely involved the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical.

14. The Mechanism bases its work on the letters dated 27 August and 9 September 2015 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2015/669 and S/2015/696, respectively), as well as on the terms of reference developed by the Mechanism, including with regard to its method of work, information management, modalities for access, evidence and reporting.

15. The objective, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures of the Mechanism are set out below.

Table 1

Objective: To identify, to the greatest extent feasible, individuals, entities, groups or Governments who were perpetrators, organizers, sponsors or otherwise involved in the use of chemicals as weapons, including chlorine or any other toxic chemical, in the Syrian Arab Republic

Expected accomplishments	Indicators of achievement
(a) Effective application of methodological considerations for the implementation of the Mechanism's mandate; effective and timely reporting on the progress achieved by the Mechanism	(a) (i) First report of the Secretary-General submitted within 90 days of the commencement of the Mechanism's full operations, including briefings to the Security Council on the methodological considerations, and subsequent reports as appropriate thereafter *Performance measures* Estimate 2016: 3 reports (1 every 90 days) (ii) Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council, in coordination with the Director-General of OPCW, as from the date on which the Mechanism begins its full operations and every 30 days thereafter on the progress made *Performance measures* Estimate 2016: 9 progress reports
(b) Effective functioning of a confidential information security regime that will take into account the requirements deemed necessary for the storage and use of information and materials provided to the Mechanism by the OPCW fact-finding mission, as well as information provided to the Mechanism pursuant to paragraphs 7 and 8 of Security Council resolution 2235 (2015); and accountability through management and accessibility of authentic digital business records, archives and information	(b) (i) Processing and record-keeping of all information and evidence through the regime to be applied to all information obtained or generated by the Mechanism in the conduct of its work *Performance measures* Estimate 2016: 100 per cent

Outputs

- Regular engagement and consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic and all parties in the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2235 (2015)
- Regular engagement and consultation with relevant Member States and with partner organizations (OPCW, World Health Organization, International Criminal Police Organization)
- Report of the Secretary-General informing the Security Council of the date on which the Mechanism begins its full operations; monthly briefings thereafter on the progress made
- First report of the Mechanism and subsequent reports as appropriate thereafter
- Development and implementation of a record management system within a robust information security regime to be applied to all information obtained or generated by the Mechanism in the conduct of its work; development of a retention policy to ensure that information and content management systems comply with record management guidance and long-term digital content and data continuity requirements

External factors

16. The objective is expected to be achieved provided that security conditions are conducive to the implementation of the mandate, there is political will, support and engagement from the various stakeholders and there is continued strong support from the international community.

Resource requirements (regular budget)

Table 2
Financial resources
(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Requirements for 2016
	Total
Civilian personnel costs	3 759.9
Operational costs	1 270.9
Total	**5 030.8**

Table 3
Positions

	Professional and higher categories									*General Service and related categories*			*National staff*			
	USG	*ASG*	*D-2*	*D-1*	*P-5*	*P-4*	*P-3*	*P-2*	***Subtotal***	*Field/ Security Service*	*General Service*	***Total international***	*National Professional Officer*	*Local level*	*United Nations Volunteers*	***Total***
Proposed 2016	–	1	2	2	5	8	3	–	**21**	–	6	**27**	–	–	–	**27**

17. The estimated requirements for the Mechanism for 2016 amount to $5,030,800 (net of staff assessment) and provide for civilian personnel costs ($3,759,900) for 27 positions (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 2 D-2, 2 D-1, 5 P-5, 8 P-4, 3 P-3 and 6 General Service (Other level)) for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2016, as well as office space, office automation equipment and furnishings for the offices in New York, The Hague and Damascus under facilities and infrastructure ($1,118,600), communications ($18,500), information technology ($123,700) and supplies and materials ($10,100). Based on the duration of the mandate, no vacancy factor is applied to staff costs, given that it is expected that the positions will be fully encumbered by January 2016.

Extrabudgetary resources

18. Extrabudgetary resources are estimated at $5 million for the period from 1 January to 30 September 2016, which would be used to meet material and technical needs to support the implementation of the Mechanism's mandate.

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Corrigendum

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Action requested of the General Assembly

19. **The General Assembly is requested:**

(a) **To approve the budget in the amount of $5,030,800 (net of staff assessment) for the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism for the period up to December 2016;**

(b) **To approve a charge of $5,030,800 (net of staff assessment) against the provision for special political missions proposed under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.**

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